

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.
MONDAY : : : : : JANUARY 21

The Grand Jury is, in the main, a satisfactory body. Like its predecessor it may be counted upon not to go on any wild goose chase.

The Murphy meetings attract a multitude and show, among other things, how much the majority of reputable people prefer moral suasion to legal suasion in the treatment of the drink question.

The Boer war may seem protracted to the British, but to General Cronje and his officers, quartered at St. Helena, it must seem interminable. If the Boers had a fortified base where they could hold prisoners they might soon collect enough British for exchange; but as it is, the Cronje party must stay on the rock of Napoleon's exile until the war in South Africa is over. When that time will come, not even the keenest soldier can guess.

We are told by those in position to know that the "Home Rule" party now numbers the majority of the native Hawaiians who voted the Republican and Democratic tickets last fall. These men have been flocking to the party of their own people with a view of putting complete control in the hands of native Hawaiians, of any cities and counties the Legislature may create. This being true it passes comprehension how newspapers, professing to be Republican, should encourage the Hawaiians to go on with their municipal crusade, knowing as they must the serious political effects to say nothing of the financial ones, that would follow.

Papa Ika's fire-walking scene was a disappointment but it was not necessarily a fake. The stones he trotted across were hot but not the hottest; and when he neared the flaming center he quickened his speed and shielded off towards the outer circle. Nevertheless when the show was over and the rain had fallen a long time on the rocks, a representative of the Advertiser followed Papa Ika's course as far as the heat would permit and reached the conclusion that the Tahitian had planted his bare feet in some very warm places. It is understood from Papa Ika that he wanted the lava stone to be white hot and was not able to get enough fire for the purpose. That is the fault of his management, which is also to blame for some very crude arrangements for the admittance of the public at the door.

The news from South Africa is depressing to those who hoped for the early cessation of the war. Five thousand Boers have escaped all the snares set for them and are raiding the central part of Cape Colony, where the Dutch farmers are joining their standards. Cape Town has had to be put in a state of defense and Kitchener has been forced to appeal for reinforcements, though his force numbers 200,000 men already. The trouble the British are having is like that of the Americans in the Philippines and it shows the operations of Morgan, Forrest and Mosby did in the American Civil War, that a small, mobile cavalry force, knowing the field in which it moves, can keep twenty times its number of the enemy guarding points that might be attacked and can compel as many more, especially infantry columns, to run about abortively in chase. In any half-settled or wild country brave guerrillas can make a war last about as long as they please.

Both Houses of Congress having passed the bill abolishing the army canteen the President may be expected to sign it. The change of front is made because of a feeling among temperance people that the Government should not put the temptation to drink even light wine and beer in the way of its soldiers. Friends of the canteen, knowing what temptations lie just outside the camps, feel that temperance is promoted by the regulation, through Government agency, of the drink traffic among enlisted men. They think it is better to sell pure wine and beer at cost to soldiers who buy drinks and see that no one man gets too much than it is to leave them to the mercies of saloon-keepers who sell adulterated drinks at a large profit and put no curb on their customers. However, the argument is closed for the present by the action of Congress, though it may be revived when the army statistics of drunkenness for the coming year have been published.

It needs a very simple mind to accept the statement of one of the tax-raising and debt-creating organs that a public debt incurred for the construction of roads, buildings, wharves and the like is necessarily a good investment. It all depends upon the people chosen to spend the money. There are cities in the United States where such outlays have been wisely made, but in these places the average of intelligence at the polls and honesty in office is high. In the South, during and after the reconstruction times, the debts of cities and states grew so great that the white people, to save themselves, had to turn to the heroic remedy of repudiation. Here in Hawaii it may be taken for granted that any municipality would be run into debt to the limit fixed by the organic law, and that the rest of the money required for extravagant administration would be raised by tax. As for roads, public buildings and wharves, just fancy what they would be like after the "Home Rule" party had spent the money to build them!

LEFT TO BOBS.

Lord Roberts Will Deal With General Colville's Case.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—The case of Major General Sir Henry Colville, whose resignation was asked by the war office, owing to the Lindley affair, has been left in the hands of Lord Roberts. There is no disposition on the part of the war office to recede from the position it has taken up. In fact, whatever Lord Roberts may decide, General Colville will be severely overhauled for a breach of the regulations in discussing the matter with the press. The selection of a commander in chief for India and for Canada has also been relegated to Lord Roberts.

Major Townley was chosen mayor of Vancouver by a large majority.

ASHORE NEAR MARSEILLES

A Passenger Steamship in Dire Peril on the Rocks.

MARSEILLES, Jan. 8.—A terrible disaster threatens the steamer *Russie*, from Oran, which stranded yesterday on the coast near the village of Farman, during a violent storm, with fifty passengers and a crew of forty on board. She has keeled to the starboard and the waves are sweeping over her. Desperate attempts to rescue her crew by lifeboats and steam tugs were made yesterday and have been repeated today, but thus far the rough seas have prevented every effort to approach her. The wind is blowing a hurricane, with no signs of abatement. A great crowd is assembled along the shore, anxiously watching the endeavors to communicate with those on board the doomed ship, which is bumping heavily, the seas dashing over her. Rockets have been fired but each time the line has fallen short. Rear Admiral Besson, naval prefect to Marseilles, has telegraphed to Toulon for the dispatch of the powerful tug *Travailleur* to the scene immediately.

MARSEILLES, Jan. 11.—Life lines have been passed to the *Russie* but the sea is running so high that no one can be taken off.

NEWS OF WORLD CONDENSED

There are 267 cases of smallpox in Kansas. President McKinley has a bad attack of the grip.

The Anchor Line steamer *Ethiopia* is aground in the Firth of Clyde. Premier Dunsinuir will open the British Columbia legislature in February. Three companies selected from the volunteer soldiery will act as Manila police.

The German steamer *Frisia* is reported off Fastnet in a disabled condition. Sir James R. Dickson, minister of defense in the new Australian cabinet, is dead.

Sir Wilfred Laurier regrets that so few lawyers enter the Canadian Parliament.

Frederick Clark Withers, one of America's most famous architects, is dead, at Yonkers, N. Y.

Corrected returns give Mr. O. E. Howland, Toronto's new mayor, a majority of 4,230 over Controller Spence.

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The military government may close several ports in the Southern islands to prevent communication between the insurgents.

E. J. Redmond, president of the Redmond-Greenleaf Co., Ltd., Montreal and Winnipeg, died suddenly of pneumonia in Montreal.

A dispatch from Brussels says Queen Mary Henrietta is in an extremely weak condition, and the slightest imprudence may prove fatal.

La grippe has reached Toronto in epidemic form, and many large mercantile concerns are crippled owing to the employees being down with the disease.

A dispatch from Puerto Real, near Cadiz, where Admiral Cervera is lying ill, says his condition has grown worse, and that his recovery is almost hopeless.

Five trains were snowbound for several days near Odessa, Russia, and were rescued with difficulty. A force of 4,000 Russians are clearing the track.

David Oziere's private bank at Shiloh, Ohio, was robbed, \$6,000 being secured and a quantity of jewelry. The robbers stole a horse and buggy and escaped.

Col. George B. Bellotti, a noted civil war veteran, committed suicide at Amsterdam, N. Y. An old wound is held responsible for the derangement inducing suicide.

The proposal that the city take over the plant of the Consumers' Gas Company has been endorsed by Toronto citizens with a majority of 7,110 in a vote of 20,086.

The Ontario government has granted the use of the legislative hall for the Toronto ladies' entertainment in honor of the returning members of the Canadian Mounted Rifles.

In response to an appeal of the Princess of Wales for further contributions to the fund for the families of the men at the front, Mr. William Waldorf Astor has contributed £5,000.

British Columbia now excludes all Chinamen who cannot make declaration of entry in one European language. The law conflicts with the Dominion statutes, and a clash may result.

The bans of marriage for three couples being published at the little village church of Acton, in Suffolk, it was discovered that every one of the six persons concerned was named Woodgate.

Discussing the project of an exchange of German East Africa for Cyprus, the Novae Vremya (St. Petersburg) says Russia would never consent to Germany securing such a foothold in the Far East.

Sir Edward Spence Symes, chief secretary of the government of Burma, since 1890, and a member of the execu-

tive council of India, shot himself in the head in a carriage. He is lingering between life and death.

A passenger train on the Central Railway, New Jersey, was run into by a freight locomotive at the Perthamby station. One passenger car was wrecked and two other cars derailed. Seven or eight persons were injured.

While on a pilgrimage to Rome the Duke of Norfolk, last year postmaster general of Great Britain, expressed the hope that some measure of the Pope's temporal power might be restored. Italy's susceptibilities are wounded.

The New York grand jury has returned indictments against Clinton Marshall, J. R. Dean and Eugene Davis, Bellevue Hospital nurses, for manslaughter, in connection with the killing of Louis Hilliard, a patient in the alcoholic ward.

By a vote of 185 to 102, the United States House of Representatives accepted reappointment plan proposed by the Bureleigh bill, which increases the membership of the House during the next decade from 357, the present membership, to 386.

The Canadian blue book on public accounts of the Dominion for the financial year ending June 30 has just been published. It shows the receipts of the consolidated fund account were \$51,029,994, against \$48,742,749 for 1899.

The consolidated fund shows a surplus of \$8,054,714, against \$4,837,749 for 1899. James J. Hill in an interview in New York outlined what he and his associates are trying to accomplish. Instead of a combination of great railways under one system, he said he was trying to bring about an agreement between certain big systems of the Northwest by which "friction" would be prevented, and the roads operated more economically.

The New York Commercial Advertiser says: "Well informed Wall street men have information that the New York and Central Railway management has made or will make a proposition to lease the Delaware and Hudson Company's railroad and coal property. The terms of the alleged lease are stated to be a guarantee of 6 and 6 1/2 per cent per annum, on the \$35,000,000 of D. & H. stock."

The following advertisement appeared recently in many Ontario papers. "On receipt of one dollar, we will send securely sealed, a beautifully bound book of four hundred pages; full of good things. Every sport should have one. The most wonderful book ever written. French and English translations; prohibited in some countries. Write at once." The crown authorities investigated and discovered the book referred to was the Bible. There was no prosecution, as the description of the book was not misleading.

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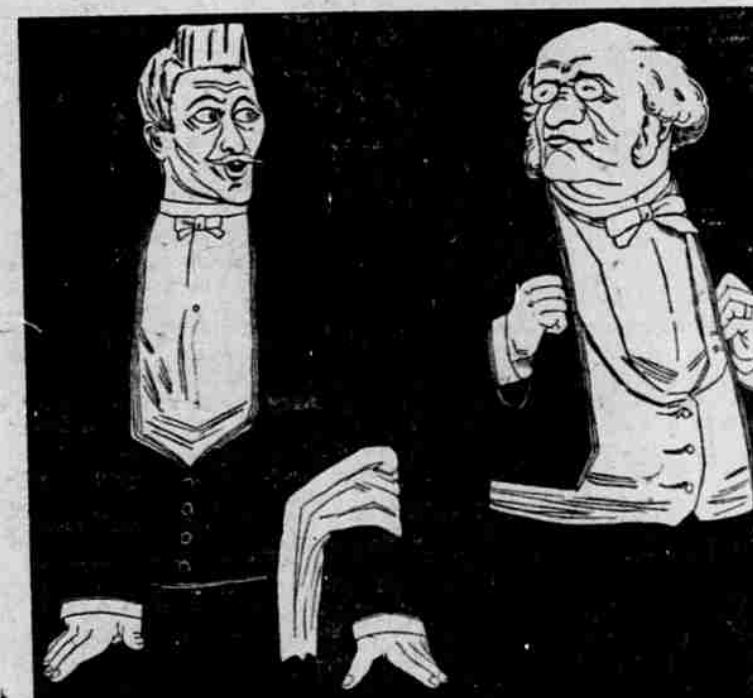
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